

THE NEW MEXICAN (N.M.)
10 September 1982

Former spy describes CIA as 'sinister, secret police'

By ROBERT STOREY
The New Mexican Staff

The nation's Central Intelligence Agency is "a sinister, well-financed secret police" that slowly is eroding away America's freedom, a former U.S. spy says.

Frank Stockwell, a former high-ranking CIA agent, said in Santa Fe his one-time employer could accidentally involve the United States.

"It's ironic," Stockwell said. "Americans wallow in so many freedoms that they've unknowingly given up some of them without a whimper."

Stockwell, who served in the CIA for 13 years before quitting in disillusionment, spoke Thursday to about 40 people at the Unitarian Church. His appearance was arranged by Albuquerque social and peace activist Allen Cooper.

"I've been sued by the CIA and am under a court injunction," Stockwell said as a prelude to his talk. "So, all of the profits of my book goes to the CIA." He urged people not to buy his book.

"I have been accused of violating my CIA oath, and they never miss an opportunity to call me a traitor. But the way I look at it, it's the people who run the CIA who are working against America's best interests," Stockwell said.

Among Stockwell's claims were:

- That the CIA, unknown to the American people, has tried to provoke unrest and destabilize governments worldwide.

- That during the Vietnam war, CIA agents submitted intelligence reports on enemy strength and activity that they knew were inaccurate because of pressure from superiors to produce information.

- That to silence its critics in the United States, the CIA uses intimidation, political blackmail and propaganda in the U.S. press to influence its treatment by Congress.

- That CIA covert activity is ineffective and only serves to create mistrust and resentment among America's allies.

Stockwell was especially critical of a new federal law that makes it a felony to reveal the names of CIA agents or information about the agency's operations — a law Stockwell claimed will be used in the future to harass the press and to cover future activity.

He said he quit the CIA because, after the fall of Vietnam, the agency refused to protect the people who provided it with information after the Communist takeover.

"Only 10 percent of the people who were on our payroll made it out and most of them had to do it on their own," he said.

"I thought we had a responsibility to these people and we just gave them up," he said.

Stockwell, who served the CIA in Africa, Washington and Vietnam, said the title of his book, "In Search of Enemies," illustrates what is wrong with the way the agency operates.

"Since it was created in 1947, the CIA's job has been to spy on and gather intelligence about this nation's enemies, even if it has to go out and create them," Stockwell charged.

Over 35 years of operations, the CIA has fomented war and unrest in various countries and used propaganda and lies to perpetuate the myth of the Communist menace in the world, he said. The CIA's critics estimated that, during the past 35 years, more than 1 million persons have died because of CIA subversion, terrorism and involvement, he said.

"The terrible thing is that the CIA does not kill America's enemies. In most cases, the people who get killed in bombings and terrorism are innocent civilians," Stockwell said.

He said Americans must be more aware and concerned about the CIA's operations overseas. Such operations, he claimed, could accidentally trigger international war.

"The world right now is a dangerous place. The CIA is like a person lighting and dropping matches...into a dark warehouse...with gun powder scattered all over the floor," Stockwell said.

"Not only is the U.S. dropping matches, when we give arms and support to groups trying to provoke unrest and destabilize governments, we're giving other people over whom we have no control the matches," he said.